

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     ATHENS 12966 071646Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-07 OES-06  
COME-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 EURE-00 /100 W

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P R 071601Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8192

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YROK

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 12966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: A. STATE 293088 (NOTAL) B. ATHENS 12460

C. ATHENS 12453

1. IN A DISCUSSION WITH MFA DIRECTOR FOR TURKISH AND  
CYPRIOT AFFAIRS NOMIKOS DECEMBER 7, NOMIKOS CONFIRMED THAT  
FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL WOULD BE MEETING IN  
BRUSSELS ON SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 11 FOLLOWING THE  
NATO MINISTERIAL. HE SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE  
EXPECTED TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE BERN AND PARIS TALKS ON  
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PAGE 02     ATHENS 12966 071646Z

THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIR SPACE ISSUES, RESPECTIVELY.

WITH RESPECT TO THE FORMER, NOMIKOS SAID HE EXPECTED THEY WOULD SET A DATE FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS TO BEGIN, PROBABLY IN JANUARY. HE ASSUMED THE MEETINGS WOULD TAKE PLACE AGAIN IN BERN WITH AMBASSADORS TZOUNIS AND BILGE, RESPECTIVELY, HEADING THE TWO SIDES.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE ISSUE, NOMIKOS SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT THE NEXT STEP WAS. THE TWO SIDES HAD COME VERY CLOSE TO AGREEMENT IN PARIS BUT TURKISH REFUSAL TO ACCEPT ANY MENTION OR REFERENCE TO THE FIR LINE HAD PRECLUDED FINAL AGREEMENT. THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED THAT THE "SECURITY ZONE" WOULD INVOLVE 36 MILES ON THE WESTERN SIDE FROM THE FIR LINE BUT TURKEY'S REFUSAL TO IDENTIFY THE FIR LINE AS THE BASE LINE RAISED SERIOUS SUSPICIONS ON THE GREEK SIDE REGARDING TURKISH INTENTIONS. THE GREEKS SUSPECTED THAT THE TURKS WANTED TO MOVE THE FIR LINE FURTHER WEST AND THUS EXPAND THE AIR SPACE IN THE TURKISH FIR.

3. NOMIKOS CONFIRMED THAT THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN THE PARIS TALKS CONCERNED THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON MILITARY FLIGHTS IN EXCESS OF FOUR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE SENSITIVE ZONE. WHENEVER THESE FLIGHTS CROSS THE FIR LINE, HOWEVER, HE SAID, DIFFERENT PROCEDURES (I.E. THOSE APPLICABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES) WOULD APPLY. THEREFORE, THE GREEKS MAINTAIN THAT THE FIR LINE HAS TO BE MENTIONED IN THE AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. NOMIKOS THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD TRY TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM IN DECEMBER. MORE LIKELY, THEY WOULD PROBABLY SET A DATE, IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, FOR THE EXPERTS TO MEET AGAIN AND TRY TO RESOLVE THIS AND THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THE MINISTERS WOULD PROBABLY ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE LARISSA-ESKISEHIR TELEPHONE LINE ON A REGULAR BASIS (APPARENTLY SO FAR THE LINE HAS ONLY BEEN USED FOR TESTING PURPOSES BETWEEN THE TWO TAF COMMANDS).  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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